

Evaluating Electronic Sources

Review An electronic source, like any source of information, needs to be **evaluated** for its accuracy, objectivity, timeliness, and relevance. One way to evaluate a Web source is to examine its **domain name**. The **suffix** in the name (for example, .com, .gov, or .org) can indicate the type of organization that sponsors the Web site. To determine whether or not a source is current, check the date on the first page of the site that indicates when the material was last updated.

Directions: First **read** each question. Then, **circle** the letter of the **best** answer.

1. Which domain-name suffix indicates an organization associated with the federal government?
 - a. .gov
 - b. .usa
 - c. .fed
2. What is one important thing to keep in mind when you see a Web site that ends in “.org”?
 - a. The “.org” suffix is always a nonprofit organization and so is always reliable.
 - b. There is a good chance that the sponsor of an “.org” site is trying to sell products.
 - c. The information in an .org Web site may be slanted toward one side of a particular issue.
3. Which Web site suffix is likely to be **least** objective or balanced?
 - a. .com
 - b. .edu
 - c. .gov
4. If you were doing research on the earliest movies, which Web site would you consult first?
 - a. the site of an organization that sells hard-to-get posters of films
 - b. the site of a university department in film history
 - c. a personal Web site called “www.silentmovienuts.net”